

New World News



Resources on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Rule

The US Environmental Protection Agency revised the regulation for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in December 2002 and increased the number of operations requiring federal CAFO permits.

Operations with 700 dairy cows or 1,000 heifers are required to obtain a CAFO permit. Smaller dairies may need a permit if they discharge into surface water or the animals have direct contact with surface water. A guide is in-

cluded with the newsletter mailing to farmer clients to

found at www.vrebahoff.com or by visiting the EPA site



familiarize them with the regulations. A link to the online information can be

directly at cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/afocafofinalrule.cfm

Market Data

The Mideast Federal Milk Marketing Order, which includes Michigan, Ohio and the majority of Indiana, experienced increases in three milk price classes.

For more information on the milk marketing system, visit the resources page at www.vrebahoff.com

December 2002 Prices announced on 01/03/03		
Class of Milk	Price per 100 pounds (or 45.36 kg.)	Change from Previous Month
I	\$12.72	-\$.08
II	\$11.62	+\$.36
III	\$9.74	-\$.10
IV	\$10.49	-\$.09

*The Class I price is adjusted based on location and will range from \$12.32—\$12.82.

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A publication of Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development LLC

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 Look inside for renewal info on **I-94 cards** and **Dutch passports**.

December milk production up 1.7%

Milk production in all 50 states climbed 1.7% over year-earlier levels in December, USDA reported late last week. Cow numbers in the final quarter of 2002 were up 43,000 head over 2001. For the year, U.S. producers cranked out 169.6 billion lb. of milk, 4.2 billion more than 2001, for a 2.6% increase. Consumption is up 1.1%

Source: agweb.com

Dairy Worker/Interpreter Available

Person with 22 years experience working on dairies available. He has references available upon request and can be reached as follows: Pable Ayala 614.308.1126

Immigration News: Notify INS of Address Changes; I-94 and Passport Reminders

All foreign nationals living inside the United States, including Legal Permanent Residents, are required to notify the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) of any and all address changes, by submitting a Form AR-11.

INS has issued a new version of Form AR-11, and now asks that the forms be filed at an address in London, Kentucky. The new version of this form can be downloaded from www.imwong.com

Remember that filing a Form AR-11 does not supersede the requirement that foreign nationals notify the appropriate service center, if immigrant or nonimmigrant petitions are currently pending.

Failure to notify the INS of a change of address can result in serious consequences including the initiation of removal proceedings.

I-94 Renewal Information

The INS Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) shows the date you arrived in the United States and the "Admitted Until" date, the date

when your authorized period of stay expires. Please note: your I-94 card is the white card you received in your passport in customs upon arrival in the US.

If your INS I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) card is close to expiring or has expired, it is important to make an effort to renew it.

Your card can be renewed via mail.

To renew by mail, the INS requires that you fill out and send in the form I-129 for the E Visa holder and the I-539 for your spouse and children. It is suggested that the forms be submitted approx. 45 days prior to the date of expiration or at least the application received by the INS by the date of expiration.

If you happen to leave the country (such as taking a trip to Canada) and the I-94 card is within 7-10 days of expiring, you can ask the custom officials to renew your I-94.

Passport Renewal Information

Since October 1, 2001, the rules for issuing Dutch passports have been changed and it is now required to apply in person for a new passport.



Depending on your passport needs, such as adding children to your passport, the identification and photo requirements for the passport

vary. **Before traveling to the consulate, it is important to call the Dutch Consulate for your area and make sure you have everything you need for the renewal.**

In general, it may take 2–3 weeks to have your passport renewed. For more information visit: www.netherlands-embassy.org or contact Monique at the Vreba-Hoff office by calling 419.337.5000.



The Blackboard

If there are specific dairy terms or phrases you've found helpful to use on your dairy operation, please email them to newsletter@vrebahoff.com

Spanish Dairy Sentence

English	John is going to milk.
Spanish	Juan va a ordeñar.
Pronunciation	HOEawn vaw aw ore-dayn-YAR
Source: Simplified Dairymen's Spanish; Utah State University	

Upcoming Seminar:

Cooling Cows for High Performance

All dairy producers are invited to attend the "Cooling Cows" seminar presented by Monsanto Dairy Business.



The seminar will cover:

- Newly released research findings from Kansas State

University resulting from 6 years of research trials

- Water soakers and fans in holding pens, feed lines and maternity areas

The information will be presented by

Dr. Bruce Clark and will be offered from 10 am—2 pm (includes lunch) at these locations:

1. Friday, February 14
4-H Park, Wells County
Community Center
Bluffton, Indiana
2. Monday, February 17
Der Dutchman
Plain City, Ohio
3. Friday, February 21
Ramada Inn
Montpelier, Ohio

To reserve your spot at the seminar, please call 800.300.6209.

Announcements

Staff Changes

Monique van Zelst joined the Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development staff on January 6th and will be working with the visa and LLC structures. Monique is originally from Oisterwijk, Noord-brabant and graduated from law school in 2002. Marjolein van der Hulst is no longer working full-time at the office but will be available on an as needed basis.

Upcoming Meeting

Date: March 5, 2003

Place: Spiritual Center,
Maria Stein, Ohio

Topic: Cow Comfort & Cooling

Speakers: Rick Stowell from University of Nebraska and Normand St-Pierre from Ohio State University Extension.

More details to follow in next newsletter.

Michigan livestock producers ban together to solve manure issues

A group of Michigan livestock producers representing several species has joined together to research and develop a manure-incineration plant that would generate electricity, steam and fertilizer from the manure of farms in the region.

Known as West Michigan Co-Gen, the group has already received state and county grants to finance three-quarters of a \$60,000 feasibility study — private funds will pay for the rest of the project's cost.

Preliminary guesstimates suggest such a biomass energy facility could sustain the electrical needs for up to 1,500 homes annually. However,

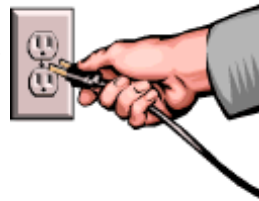
total plant capacity has yet to be determined.

Supporters say such a project would help area producers proactively deal with community hot-buttons like manure odors, runoff and water quality, as well as tighter state and federal environmental regulations.

In addition, it would decrease producer dependence on the practice of field-spreading manure that often fuels these issues.

In addition to electricity production, the group is exploring alliance options with other area ag-based entities to generate income from plant byproducts.

The feasibility study should be completed by mid-summer. And, if all goes smoothly, the plant could be up and running as soon as the end of next year.



Source: dairyherd.com

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Announcements

Farmer has 10 springing heifers for sale in NW Ohio. Herd is averaging 90 lbs of milk. If interested please contact, Bob at 740.966.0351.

Farmer in South Central Ohio interested in raising heifers. Has complex with 100 freestalls available. If interested, please contact Curt at 937.526.4215.

Mibelloon Dairy LLC

In this issue of New World News, we visit with Family Van Loon.

Originally from Belgium, the Van Loons readily admit they miss the Belgium chocolates, candy, bread, and the parties in their homeland.

"But every time we have visitors from our homeland, they bring candy and chocolate," explains the Van Loon family, "And, we like farming in the US."

"We can make future plans for our farm and actually work them out. We also like the open area and the fact that it doesn't rain as much as in Belgium."

The Van Loons made the decision to relocate to the US in 1999 and moved in May 2001 from a small town in the northern part of Belgium called Nieuwmoer to Michigan. (Nieuwmoer is just on the border of Achtmaal (Zundert) in The Netherlands.)

"The laws and rules from the milk quota had changed so dramatically in Belgium," say the Van Loons, "that expansion wasn't possible there." While Mibelloon Dairy was under construction in 2001, they rented a dairy farm in Grand Rapids and bought 500 dairy cows.

Right: The Van Loons had a successful open house in September 2002 and plan to hold an open house every two years.



Above: The dairy name of Mibelloon comes from combining Michigan, Belgium, and Van Loon.



Above: The Van Loon's had 200 cows and 270 acres on their Belgium farm.

The Van Loons began milking in their new dairy facility on April 11, 2002 in St. Louis, Michigan. The dairy has expanded to 1,000 cows and they now have 10 employees.

"Because a lot of people were interested in what is going on at our dairy," explains the Van Loons, "we had an open house in September 2002. We informed people through local news advertisements and personal invitations. Every half hour during the open house, we had a tour starting in the barn and ending with a hot lunch."

When looking to the future, the Van Loons believe "the sky is the limit to expand in the US dairy



industry" and they encourage people who are considering relocating to get a lot of information about the town, school, grocery stores and malls.

For example, after checking out the area schools, the

Van Loons found that the educa-

tion level would better fit their children if they skipped a grade.

Two of their four children still attend school while the oldest kids work on the dairy. The oldest son, Gert, 21, takes care of the cows, herd health and reproduction. Wouter, 18, graduated from St. Louis High School last year. He feeds the cows now, and takes care of maintenance. Tinne, 15, is a sophomore at St. Louis High School and plans to do something in web design or graphic design. Sanne, 11, goes to the 6th grade at Nurnberger Middle School.